

Note of the Engagement Meeting with NDA and Magnox

25 September, 2012

London School of Economics, London

1. Attendance

Representatives of local authorities associated with Magnox and RSRL sites in England and Wales were invited to the meeting.

Attendance was as follows:

Mike Garrity, Dorset County Council
John Prosser, Kent County Council
Phil Watson, Northamptonshire County Council
Peter Day, Oxfordshire County Council
Aled Sturkey, Snowdonia National Park Authority
Guy Robinson, Somerset County Council
Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal District Council
Clive Pink, Suffolk Coastal District Council
David Palk, Suffolk County Council
Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council
Denice Gallen, Copeland Borough Council (observer)
Richard Evans, Cumbria County Council (observer)
Peter Roach, Magnox Limited
Bill Hamilton, NDA
Catherine Draper, NuLeAF
Stewart Kemp, NuLeAF
Philip Matthews, NuLeAF

Apologies were received from: Dylan Williams – Anglesey County Council, Kerry Rickards and Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Dave Illsley – Shepway District Council, John Pitchford – Suffolk County Council.

2. Note and Actions from the November meeting

The note of the previous meetings had been circulated and agreed electronically. All actions had been completed with the exception of actions 1 & 2 which would be updated at the meeting on 24 October.

3. Presentation on Magnox Optimised Decommissioning Programme (MODP).

The presentation is available to view on the NuLeAF [website](#). Key points were:

Main elements of MODP are:

- Maximise value from remaining operating site(s)
- Complete defueling programme
- Deliver Bradwell and Trawsfynydd into early Care & Maintenance (C&M)
- Put Chapelcross and Dungeness into a safe interim C&M state
- Use Strategic Programme delivery to pioneer innovative and transformational ways of working with a view to minimising lifetime costs
- Address one of highest hazards by safely implementing Berkeley active waste vaults retrieval project
- Reshape and reduce the workforce in line with MODP, whilst maintaining support for the staff.

MODP outcomes:

- waste dealt with earlier and hazard reduced
- lessons learnt are transferred between sites
- lifetime saving of £1.3 billion across the sites
- C&M brought forward resulting in 34 years taken off total across sites

Key points raised during discussion were:

- PR assured the meeting that neither the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) competition, nor the new nuclear build programme would impact upon the delivery of MODP.
- PR undertook to provide information on:
 - a) volumes of waste streams over the lifetime of the plan
 - b) the smart inventory data for each site

Action: PR

- There is communication on topics of common interest between Magnox and RSRL, although for commercial reasons it is at 'arms length'. NDA hosts a joint SLC working party dealing with movement of materials across sites.
- NDA hope that the PBO competition will drive the decommissioning process forward, and result in reduced costs and timeline without compromising safety and security. MODP will be the baseline against which competing bids will be judged.
- BH assured the meeting that all PBO bidders would be required to submit a programme of stakeholder engagement and socio-economic support and this will be a threshold criteria against which bidders will be judged. The current socio-economic programme will be used as a baseline.
- Although risks to the delivery of MODP caused by the reduction or cessation of reprocessing at Sellafield cannot be ruled out, consideration had been given to this when the programme was drawn up. Following a workshop run earlier this year, NDA will shortly be publishing a document which addresses risks and identifies contingencies.
- Assurances were given that because of the reduction in emissions from Sellafield the plant would be OSPAR compliant.

- Concerns re NDA community engagement at waste receiving sites would be addressed at the meeting on 24 October.

4. NDA Strategy update

Key points raised in the presentation were:

- Under the terms of the Act which set up the NDA, their Strategy must be updated every five years.
- The process for producing Strategy 3 is in the early stages and the issue will be addressed at the National Stakeholder event in Manchester at the end of October. There was also the opportunity for NDA/NuLeAF to hold a pre-draft consultation seminar/workshop in early 2013.

Action: BH/CD

- The Strategy is formed from key themes: integrated waste management, site restoration, spent fuel, nuclear materials and business optimisation. Behind these themes sit 13 critical enablers e.g. socio-economics, stakeholder engagement, transport, asset management.

Recent activities:

IWM:

- Consultation on credible options for storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) in Central and Southern Scotland had recently closed. NuLeAF had submitted a response.
- Work was being undertaken to review the baseline approach for storage of ILW in England (yellow boxes) to ascertain whether there was any case for change. Credible options paper to follow.
- Work was also being undertaken to establish the likely position with Higher Activity Waste (HAW) in 2023, and what the risk and opportunities are in treating HAW.
- NDA remained keen to be involved in local authority development of Waste Local Plans.

Site Restoration:

- Progress on this theme has slowed.
- Initial expectations of options for site restoration were probably over stated. Work is now being undertaken to establish what the practical options are.
- Anna Clark who leads on this item is scheduled to speak at the meeting on 24 October.
- It is hoped that an updated version of the management plan will be published by the end of 2012, and that further progress on this theme will be made over the next 12 months.

Spent Fuel:

- The Strategy is known for this theme. Reprocessing of Magnox SNF should be completed by 2017-2023. Contingency plans are in place if this cannot be achieved.
- Baseline plan for reprocessing of AGR fuel at Thorp plant is that current contracts will be completed by 2018, whereupon Thorp will close. Any fuel not reprocessed

by this date will be stored on the Sellafield site pending the availability of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Nuclear Materials:

These are divided into three categories: plutonium, uranium and exotic fuels.

Plutonium:

- There is currently c.100+ tons of plutonium stored at Sellafield. The government's preferred approach is to turn the plutonium into MOX fuel for use in new build reactors, but no formal decision has yet been taken.
- NDA act as technical advisers to the government on this issue, and are drawing up a business case for the construction of a new MOX reprocessing plant.
- Two other options are being considered, but are considered less credible (PRISM and CANDU).
- The government is not scheduled to make a final decision until 2015.
- A decision is awaited from the Nuclear Security Council on dealing with plutonium from Dounreay.

Exotics:

- These comprise research reactor fuels and associated materials which don't fit into the other two categories.
- At present, the majority is located at Dounreay with a small amount at Harwell. Credible and preferred options have been identified and consulted upon and the programme has moved to the delivery stage, which will result in the movement of these materials to Sellafield.
- The Dounreay material will be reprocessed through the Magnox plant and the products blended with Magnox SNF products.
- Materials from Harwell are not suitable for reprocessing and will be stored at Sellafield until either a use for them is found or they are disposed to the GDF.

Key issues arising from questions were:

- A new MOX reprocessing plant will only be built if the government is sure of demand for the fuel in the UK market. Although the reprocessing into MOX fuel does not make money for the government, it is necessary, for security reasons, to deal with the UK plutonium stockpile, and this is currently the preferred option.
- There should be clarity over the options for dealing with ILW in the next 12 months. Consideration is being given to whether it would be advantageous to move away from the baseline of storing ILW in 'yellow boxes' on each site to consolidation at the smaller number of sites.
- The Planning Inspectorate considers NDA strategy to be national strategy and it is important that Waste Planning Authorities pay heed to this when preparing waste policies.

5. Community Benefits update

- Work done by the previous Executive Director on producing a Community Benefits Protocol for the nuclear legacy sector has provided a useful background to NDA thinking on the issue.

- NDA has focused its efforts on community benefit discussions in West Cumbria, before moving on to a more generic approach for other sites.
- The issue of community benefits was originally raised in respect of the application for the construction of Vault 9 at the LLWR. The circumstances surrounding the application and the establishment of a Community Benefit Fund are considered unique and recognise the national role the facility plays.
- Similar circumstances apply to the LLW disposal facility and associated Community Benefit Fund at Dounreay.
- Current discussions in West Cumbria recognise the uniqueness of the national role which the Sellafield site plays, and any Community Benefits Fund agreed as part of the planning applications submitted will recognise this factor, rather than any dis-benefits to the local community, which in planning terms are minimal.
- Previous discussion on this topic by NDA with stakeholders was at a strategic level and may have raised expectations to an inappropriate level.
- Discussions in West Cumbria are now close to concluding and once completed, NDA will review the Community Benefits Protocol drawn up by Fred Barker to see if it is still viable in light of the smaller number of cases which NDA will consider.
- Any application for community benefits will be dealt with on its own merits. The SLC is likely to be the determining body.

Key points raised in discussion were:

- Communities hosting new nuclear build may consider that the use of MOX fuel as a waste disposal route.
- BH confirmed that if the consolidated storage of ILW at a reduced number of sites is identified as a preferred option, then this would warrant the payment of Community Benefits
- Communities will not distinguish between a consolidated storage site fulfilling a national role and a local storage site at a nuclear site which has generated electricity for the nation.
- Benefits to the community come in other ways than through a Community Benefit Fund and part of NDA's remit is to consider ways to ameliorate the impact of site decommissioning on the local economy.
- In relation to the Hinkley Point C application, EDF had accepted that "...there should be a Community Fund to address those generalised impacts on the quality of life that are difficult to identify and particularly difficult to mitigate through more direct means (28.1.1). Also that "EDF Energy accepts, however, that there are likely to be other less easily defined impacts which will be felt by local communities and which may not be addressed by the full range of other mitigation commitments. These less tangible impacts might be described as impacts on the "quality of life" of local communities." (9.4.12)

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 October, 13.30 to 16.00, at the Priory Room, Bull Street, Birmingham.

Annex A

ACTIONS FROM 25 SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH NDA AND MAGNOX			
TOPIC	ACTION	FOR	STATUS
MODP	To provide information on volumes of waste streams over lifetime plan.	Peter Roach	Done
MODP	To provide smart inventory of waste for each site including timings of arisings.	Peter Roach	Done
Community engagement	To resolve issues surrounding perception of lack of community engagement by NDA. Item to be discussed at meeting on 24 October.	RE/BH/ NuLeAF	For discussion at meeting on 24 October
NDA Strategy/ Stakeholder engagement	Consideration to be given to holding seminar in Spring 2013 ahead of consultation on draft NDA Strategy 3.	BH/CD	To review after NDA Stakeholder event, 29/30 October.

ACTIONS FROM 11 NOVEMBER MEETING WITH NDA, MAGNOX, RSRL AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY			
TOPIC	ACTION	FOR	STATUS (25 September)
Planning policies	1 Further discussion to consider whether more specific NuLeAF advice was needed to take account of the differences between treatment, storage and disposal.	FB/JM	tba
Development control	2 Further discussions to consider the implications for waste transfers of planning permissions at recipient sites.	BH/JM/FB	tba
Planning policies and community benefits	5 BH to keep FB informed of developments of discussions between Sellafield and Cumbrian local authorities.	BH	Discussion ongoing. BH will provide update at meeting on 25 Sept.

ACTIONS FROM JUNE MEETINGS WITH NDA, SLCs AND REGULATORS			
TOPIC	ACTION	FOR	STATUS 11 November
Integrated waste management	6 Consider implications for waste transfers of planning permissions at recipient sites and advise SLCs.	NDA	To be clarified through further discussion.
Engagement with LAs	11 Provide documentation re strategy development and implementation as appropriate for LA comment	NDA/SLCs	None provided to date. NuLeAF happy to circulate materials as appropriate.